
Edited by John Harney and John Rimmer

SEPTEMBER 1970



THE LIBERATION OF UFOLOGY

A review of John Keel's two
new books

IT IS A STORY OF GHOSTS AND PHANTOMS AND STRANGE MENTAL ABERRATIONS; OF AN INVISIBLE WORLD WHICH SURROUNDS US AND OCCASIONALLY ENGULFS US; OF PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES, AND GODS AND DEMONS. IT IS A WORLD OF ILLUSION AND HALLUCINATION WHERE THE UNREAL SEEMS VERY REAL, AND WHERE REALITY ITSELF IS DISTORTED BY STRANGE FORCES WHICH CAN SEEMINGLY MANIPULATE SPACE, TIME, AND PHYSICAL MATTER — FORCES WHICH ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION.

EDITORIAL

Science and Occultism

The acceptance of the Condon Report by the American Academy of Sciences, and its subsequent publication, must have seemed to many of us to be an admission by the scientific community that they could do nothing for ufology. In other words, the tools of conventional science had apparently proved too blunt to work the raw material provided by the UFO percipients. The Report tends to agree with the findings of other investigators that many witnesses to bizarre UFO events are perfectly sane people who are honestly convinced that they experienced what they described. Having reached this conclusion in some cases, though, Condon is unable or unwilling to pursue the matter any further. The objective reality of the UFO has not been established and unless and until it is established there is nothing to investigate, so far as the scientific community is concerned. Thus ufology remains a pseudo-science, along with astrology, radiesthesia, phrenology and the rest.

On reading the report many ufologists agreed with the scientists--up to a point. They were prepared to concede that Condon's team had demonstrated that the alleged physical evidence for the UFO was usually spurious and never unequivocal as other sceptics, such as Menzel, had done previously. On accepting this, some, like the scientists, dropped the subject whilst others turned, inevitably, to occultism. Yet others continue with straightforward, scientific methods. However, occultism and science do not mix very well and the resulting confusion and debate seems likely to provide copy for UFO journals for some considerable time to come.

Ufology IS dead --- and here's why:

by Michael Harris

For some time now it has been very evident that there are many petty squabbles among amateur UFO groups and among the elite of French, British and American ufologists. This is bad enough among the amateurs, on whom we often have to rely for UFO reports and investigations, but when it spreads to the serious, deep-delving experts, then we are in trouble.

Throughout the years, our investigations have been hampered intolerably by the "Establishment's" mud-slinging and ridicule. Some of the contactees have, unhappily, brought only the lunatic fringe of the subject into the limelight, often with disastrous results to serious researchers.

These factors have been troublesome enough, but now we're hindering ourselves. All this ego-wounding and defence--general rivalry--is preventing us from coming near the bottom of the UFO mystery.

It has been suggested (unfortunately, I forget where) that J. Vallee, A. Michel, and various other major ufologists should recheck the work John Keel has done--for example, on his articles about "Mystery Aeroplanes of the 1930s". I agree with this rechecking of other people's work, but only to a certain degree. Where necessary, where there is any doubt, yes. But for greater efficiency and more chance of accuracy and weeding-out, I suggest that these people should all get together as much as possible and do the field work together. I feel sure this can be done successfully and with astoundingly good results.

My certainty comes from two investigations. The first and most impressive is the example of the work done by Norman Oliver and Eileen Duckle on the Scoriton case. The evidence in favour of the alleged claim was abundant and almost conclusive, one would have thought. But there were loose ends, things that didn't quite ring true. Also, as investigations continued, divers factors were injected,

not all appearing relevant or helpful, but tangling the mystery further. Eventually, as related in "Sequel to Scoriton" by Mr Oliver, it became evident that all was not what it seemed. By clinging to a rule he made up, "The prime loyalty of anyone investigating UFO claims and sightings is to ufology; it is not to the sighting or contact claimant, it is not to fellow investigators... if, in the course of his investigations he comes across relevant information it is up to him to record that information, not to suppress it...out of a misplaced sense of loyalty to others.", Mr Oliver unearthed much more evidence for and against the truth of Bryant's claim.

The other thing is John Keel's work, recorded in FSR, Vol. 15, No.1, on "The 'Little Man' of North Carolina", and a later report in FSR, Vol.15, No.6, to the effect that the 'Little Man' photograph and sighting claim now seem less likely than was first thought to be authentic. This despite the original evidence indicating that certain factors of the account were too little known to have been fabricated.

With these for examples, what might we not manage if we work together towards a solution. John Keel, besides being somewhat controversial in his ideas, has also proved himself a valuable researcher. In recent years he has produced such fine articles as "The Principle of Transmogrification", "The Time Cycle Factor", "The Superior Technology", and now two important new books. Perhaps more important than we yet realise.

We can't afford any more argumants and stultifying name-calling. If Keel and his colleagues who don't quite agree with him would swallow their pride (vanity) and read "How to Win Friends and Influence People", and put its suggestions to work, we may yet accomplish the resurrection in renewed glory of worldwide ufology.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

From Mr JOHN A. KEEL

Dear John,

The June/July MUFOB arrived yesterday (August 5) and has led me to order new suits (black) for my corps of Oriental-looking aides. I am sending them to England to carry out a kidnapping operation. You and Rimmer will be the first to disappear, for we need you desperately on this side of the Big Pond. This will be a new kind of Brain Drain. My MIBs are looking for ufologists with open minds and a sense of humour. They scoured the United States systematically for four years and have failed to find anyone answering to these qualifications. But despite the petty conflicts and nonsense in British circles I still suspect the general quality of ufology there is considerably higher than it is here. So pack your suitcase and wait for the 3 a.m. knock on the door. The password is "Stendek".

Now, whether you like it or not, here is my considered opinion. Ufology should rightfully be a branch of psychical research. The psychical researchers have developed reasonably scientific methods for dealing with paranormal material. And they have quietly come up with some reasonable answers for much of it. (I am not speaking of the innumerable crackpot cults and lunatic fringe believers.) The "New Ufology" (Jerome Clark's term) must necessarily be concerned with all paranormal manifestations. It is folly to ignore and exclude cases which contain unsavoury psychical elements, just as it would be folly for medical researchers to ignore leukemia because they don't like the sight of blood.

Ufology is not dying. It is in a transitional period. A most painful one for many. If our none-too-learned interpretations of the cave paintings are correct, UFOs have been buzzing this planet since man first appeared. They will very likely still be flying around long after we have blown ourselves up. Maybe they belong here even more than we do. We do make wonderful pets and our antics are no doubt very amusing. Instead of debating the mathematical probabilities for life existing on other planets the "New Ufologists" will be more and more concerned with the unseen (but frequently observed manifestations of) forces which exist right here along our side. We seem to be currently suffering from psychical pollution. Perhaps the human mind itself is partially responsible and is causing some peculiar interaction between Us and Them. The "balance of the universe" is, indeed, upset. And the ufologists are the most unbalanced of all.

I have just been informed, from the most esteemed of authorities, that John Keel doesn't exist at all. An expert graphologist has examined samples of his handwriting and discovered that his many letters and articles were really written by Sir Francis Bacon. This finding should resolve some of the controversy.

Bost...., John A. Keel (I think), Box 351, Murray Hill Station, New York, N.Y. 10016, U.S.A.

From Mr PETER BOOTH

Dear John,

It is, at this time, difficult to visualise a rational conclusion to the UFO phenomenon being reached by either science or the psychic researcher. Whilst the open-minded ufologist cannot ignore the psychic aspects of many of the reports I feel we might be better employed in persuading science to update its outlook. The Condon Report left many gaps but there is plenty in there for the scientist to chew on. After all, the Society for Psychical Research is not likely to receive a $\frac{1}{2}$ -million dollar grant.

Along with the hardcore reports John Keel's interesting revelations should be checked out as far as possible and the data passed to Vallee, Hynek, Schwarz and their like for both research and the necessary lobbying of international science to take an open and serious look at the subject. We should also be encouraging a UFO climate in which those non-reporting sighters (the majority) are given the confidence to report.

Yours sincerely, Peter Booth, 11 Sandileigh Avenue, CHEADIE, Cheshire, SK8 2EX

PS 1. Dr Hynek had an important article published in the April 22, 1970, edition of the Christian Science Monitor. I wonder if you, or any of your Merseyside friends, saw it.

PS 2. In his recent book "The Super Spies" (published by Arthur Barker 1970) Andrew Tulley devotes almost the whole of his first chapter to revealing that U.S. - Soviet intelligence agencies have been responsible for several UFO events. In particular he cites the Muscarello - Exeter, New Hampshire, 1965, sighting as belonging to this category. I think this book has only recently been published and should be in a prominent position in the larger Liverpool bookshops. I came across it during a recent browsing sortie in Manchester. On the same day I noticed a hard-back version of the Condon Report has been published by a British publisher (I forgot the name) at 84/-.

From Mr PETER ROGERSON

Dear Mr Harney,

Dr Cleary-Baker appears to be under the impression that comment about 'self-styled' investigators who have never heard of John Keel and never read FSR was aimed at himself. This was not the case. The real target of this remark was certain local 'investigators' whom I suspect Dr Cleary-Baker has himself crossed swords with.

Neither did I suggest support for the ETH was equivalent to the defence of the old-time ufological establishment. Indeed, I never mentioned the ETH once in my letter. Dr Cleary-Baker claims that he rejects the whole Space Brother caper, yet in BUFORA Journal he has consistently excluded Shuttlewood from this rejection and has claimed that those inane phone calls Shuttlewood received were from benign space people who were later pushed out by 'negative forces'.

Having read Keel's "Strange Creatures" I agree with Patrick A. Huyghe that it is an excellent book and certainly an appetiser for "Trojan Horse", which is not yet available in this country. I recommend those who have not already obtained this book to attempt to do so. I also recommend Vallee's "Passport to Magonia" to all open-minded ufologists. Vallee's and Keel's books are complementary. Vallee vividly demonstrates the unity of beliefs in Fauns, sylphs and demons of the medieval world, the fairies, etc., of Celtic folklore and the modern flying saucer myths. Keel demonstrates the unity of UFO events and all other paranormal occurrences.

When an examination is made of what is really happening in the flap areas a very disturbing picture seems to emerge; whole communities in the mid-U.S.A. are besieged by strange lights and huge, winged creatures—great shambling ape-men which attack people in lonely parks and then vanish. In England communities were until the turn of the century held in thrall by a huge, phantom dog. At the beginning of last year strange lights were seen in the sky of Doncaster while local

clergy worked overtime to exorcise the vast number of houses that had suddenly become infested with poltergeists.

It is not just in these flap areas, however, that strange and disturbing events occur. Across the country children playing with ouija boards, etc., are finding that poltergeist disturbances are breaking out in their homes and strange shadows move from room to room.

The folklorist and parapsychologist Eric Maple has said that the true indication of civilisation is not so much its standard of technical progress as its mastery over, or conquest of, the terrors of the dark. Without myth or belief in a sane, rational universe progress of any kind is impossible. Whether what is now happening is a purely psychological phenomenon or, alternatively, some external intelligence is at work, the result is the same. Magonia, the world of madness and terrible beauty is being reborn, the darkness is closing in again.

Faced with this, how can the scattered UFO groups cope? Many in boredom and frustration have turned to spiritualism. As for the national groups, with the exception of BUFORA they are little more than assemblages of space brother enthusiasts. COS-MOS, for example, though formed and led by persons favourable to the ideas of John Keel has fallen under the influence of various kinds of unsavoury cultists. Contact (UK) and NICAP (GB) are quite outside the pale of serious UFO research.

BUFORA has managed to survive despite the fact that it is essentially a coalition of mutually hostile factions beset by generational and doctrinal hostilities. And indeed in the last couple of years it has developed a far more scientific attitude to many problems (thanks, mainly, to Stephen Smith). Nevertheless, BUFORA remains a largely home counties local group.

I am trying to obtain copies of MUFCB, Vol.1, and all issues of MUFORG Bulletin. Is there any reader who can help in this matter?

As a final thought may I suggest that UFO researchers put away their tomes on exobiology for a few days and read William Golding's "Lord of the Flies" -- carefully.

Yours faithfully, Peter Rogerson, 8 Braddon Avenue, Urmston, MANCHESTER, M31 1UE

From Mrs JOSEPHINE J. CLARK

... What begins as objective reasoning collapses when confronted with the unknown and the gullible grab the easy way out. They surrender to the age-old solution--mysticism. Gods, devils, demons and elementals represent "beliefs" and solve nothing. Man's intellect is capable of understanding anything--provided he puts forth the necessary effort. Unfortunately intelligence means nothing as long as individuals prefer to solve problems by "belief" and "faith". Some kind of intelligence is involved with flying saucers, and intelligence implies life--physical life.

Josephine J. Clark, 340 Harvard Drive, Rt.2, Ben Lomond, California, 95005, U.S.A.

From Mr GERALD LOVELL, South-West Aerial Phenomena Investigation Group

Dear Mr Rimmer,

Immediately after my reading and subsequently digesting your article, "The Death and Life of British Ufology", I rushed off a letter, written on genuine SWAFIG-headed notepaper, to DRIVEL.

My request was for an urgent exchange of publications; UFO info; stick-pins; bumper stickers; 'Happy Tappy' pencils blocked with Group name; some of our members for some of theirs and an exchange of fluff under the bed.

No reply by return was forthcoming and acting swiftly I organised a full-scale 'Red Alert' of our group's vast human (and some not so human) resources. Serious investigation revealed an anomaly, namely that 17 Widgeon's Covert, Neasden, London, NW 10, does not exist outside the confines of your strange mind.

Such deplorable acts of wild, irresponsibility have, like Condon and his Report, succeeded in putting back British ufology at least ten years. What manner of man are you, for goodness sake?

Incidentally, your ~~at~~ latest Bulletin has brought about a new in-joke among us down here: Knock! Knock! Who's there? Merseyside UFO Bulletin!

Finally, after all that, would be happy to co-operate in your Index project. Sincerely yours, Gerald Lovell, 126 Summerhill Road, St George, BRISTOL,

BS5 8JU

From Mr RICHARD C. BEET, Hon. Secretary, Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena

Dear Mr Harney,

I have noted with some dismay the article in MUTOB 3/3 entitled 'The Death and Life of British Ufology' by John Rimmer. Although some valid points were raised, I feel that Mr Rimmer may well have overstepped the mark in his vilification of all British UFO groups.

The basis of my support for the local (and national) UFO organisational system is threefold.

1. There is a constant need to develop and apply suitable investigation techniques to the general phenomenon. This aim is best achieved by discussion, consultation and ultimately action. A group of persons with individual and often constructive ideas is in a very good position to discuss, consult and act.
2. There is a need to provide the general public in any given area an access point for information exchange. This could be achieved by registration of the group by a local authority, by entries in both the ordinary and business (yellow pages) sections of the telephone directory, by the display of a central telephone number or address in the offices of police stations, and by co-operation with local newspapers.
3. There is an obligation by the group to provide and distribute pertinent information and to provide a meeting place within reach of as many members as possible.

Many serious ufologists prefer to work through the medium of the UFO organisations. My contention is that there is a place for both the group, provided that it is run in a proper and constitutional manner, and for the "Armchair Ufologist". An acceptable argument for the A.U. was propounded by Mr Rimmer. Unfortunately the mere mention of 'UFO group' appears to bring this good gentleman to the point of hysteria.

Wishing you all continued success with your venture, Yours sincerely,
Richard C. Beet, 23 Coatham Place, Cranleigh, Surrey.

Appendix

Membership Statistics of SIGAP (Regional AP Investigation Group)

Average age of members on joining -- 30 years.

1967 Members joined -- 44.

1968 Members joined -- 35. Those rejoining from 1967 -- 35 (79.5% of original)

1969 Members joined -- 35. Those rejoining from 1967 -- 27 (61.2% of original)
Those rejoining from 1968 -- 21 (60% of original).

Hardly a "spectacle of suffering", although the figures are by no means ideal. 1970 figures show a small decline in membership applications no doubt due to London, little press coverage, etc.

JOHN RIMMER REPLIES:

I do not think I have 'overstepped the mark' in my 'vilification' of UFO groups. In fact, on second thoughts, I feel I have not gone far enough in criticising them. My main objection to the present set-up of UFO groups in this country (that brings me to the point of hysteria) is the totally random way in which they are formed and run. If a group of people in Neasden wish to set up a society for any subject under the sun they are entitled to do so, whether it is for the study of UFOs or the preservation of the Albert Memorial. What they are not entitled to do is claim that they are a responsible, scientific organisation, until such time as they are able to prove this by virtue of their published work. I wrote in 'Death and Life' that "the local societies are just rag-bags of assorted characters." I would challenge anybody to deny this. Some of the assorted characters may be very nice people, ('Some of my best friends are ufologists, but would you like your sister etc...') some of them may even be very intelligent. However the general effect of such groups is to reduce themselves to the lowest common denominator, which in some cases is very low and very common.

We assert that ufology is a study worthy of serious scientific attention at the highest level, and act horrified when scientists dismiss ufologists as cranks. But can we really blame them? Suppose a scientist, deciding that ufology might be a valid study with some relevance to his specialisation, goes along to his local group, what is he confronted with? A number of solid, sensible burghers with sound ideas, but also, more likely than not, with a bunch of prattling cranks whose meagre minds are full of pathetic, unscientific twaddle. Obviously he

is going to recoil in horror from such people.

The standard reply to this argument is: 'Who is going to stand in judgement on these people; are we going to have tests that people have to pass?' I would say quite bluntly that we are going to have to stand in judgement on such people. Groups, if they want to be considered seriously by the community are going to have to say to potential recruits: 'We're very sorry, we don't have room for you here: don't call us, we won't call you'.

But this is only improving the present system. In 'Death and Life' I attacked the group system. Since then people have asked me what I would put in the place of the present groups. I suggested at the end of that article a possible future structure of individual studies by researchers, uniting for specific purposes and working together on an informal basis, calling in specialists and publishing their findings. This is how every other scientific discipline works, from psychic research to civil engineering. If people want to meet regularly to discuss UFOs, swap stories, exchange books, etc., I feel that this can be done in a far better atmosphere over a few jars in a pub, completely informally, rather than forming into a society with a constitution and some high flown title, that by its very nature claims to be some sort of official spokesman for ufologists as a whole.

OBJECTIONS TO THE PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL HYPOTHESIS

by John Harney

Ufology has always been noted for sharp clashes of opinion within its ranks, but these have generally been between the rational and the irrational, the issues being complicated by the fact that some people are more rational than others. Recently however, many ufologists, disillusioned by the painfully obvious shortcomings of the ETH, have begun to regard the UFO as an essentially psychic phenomenon.

The parapsychological hypothesis has the great attraction that it can encompass practically any occurrence which seems to be either physically impossible or outrageously improbable. UFO entities can be compared with reports of ghosts and fairies; physical effects can be attributed to psychokinesis or teleportation; practically every one of the more bizarre effects reported in connection with UFO events has its counterpart in occult lore, as Ivar Mackay has recently pointed out. (1)

We all realise, though, that to most scientists the findings of the psychical researchers are unacceptable. Many people think that this is merely because of conservatism and prejudice, a simple reluctance to accept any facts which appear to contradict or to transcend the basic laws of physics. This is a very comforting thought to students of the mysterious and the unexplained, but unfortunately it is only partly true.

The real reason why psychical phenomena are not generally accepted as real is simply because the parapsychologists have so far been unable to provide rigorous, irrefutable proof of their assertions, that is, proof which can be put to the test of controlled, repeatable laboratory experiments. Indeed, most psychic researchers are quite aware of this problem. Like ufologists, they hope to gradually win the confidence of the scientific community by conducting more and more painstaking research, and collecting as much information and evidence as possible. They thus hope to win over their opponents by the sheer accumulation of data, even though each observation and experiment, if examined separately, is open to question. As the psychologist Robert Thouless has written:

"It is sometimes supposed to be the main task of those interested in parapsychology to convince the rest of the world (or at least the scientific world) of the reality of parapsychological phenomena. I think this aim is a mistaken one that is liable to divert psychical research into unfruitful channels. All that is necessary is that the scientific world shall know that there is sufficient ground for belief in the reality of paranormal phenomena to make this a worthwhile field of research activity." (2)

Note the use of the word 'belief' in the above paragraph. In spite of all the energy and brain power brought to bear on the subject since the late nineteenth century the reality of psychic

phenomena is still a matter of faith or personal conviction rather than established, demonstrable fact.

So far as UFO research is concerned it can of course be argued that the ufologists should generally confine themselves to merely collecting data about UFO events and passing it on to the appropriate experts for evaluation. In fact, though, practically every UFO investigator has a working hypothesis and he tends to look for evidence to support that hypothesis, whilst ignoring or not noticing details which seem to him to be irrelevant. Thus John Keel digs up reports of witnesses being visited by mysterious strangers, whereas other investigators never think to ask witnesses if they have had any unusual visitors. The final version of a UFO report, then, tends to be coloured by the theories and prejudices of the investigator. So Keel's findings plainly support the parapsychological hypothesis, Keyhoe's findings strongly support the ETH, and Menzel clearly demonstrates that the whole UFO business is an elaborate popular delusion.

As interest in the parapsychological hypothesis grows, opponents of ufology will argue that in apparently abandoning accepted methods of research, based on the principles of physics and psychology, ufologists will not deserve to be taken seriously, as they will never be able to convince anyone other than themselves of the validity of their claims.

References

1. MACKAY, IVAR UFOs and the Occult--1, Flying Saucer Review, 16, 4, p27.
 2. THOULESS, ROBERT H. Experimental Psychical Research, Penguin Books, 1963.
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THE LIBERATION OF THE UFO

by John A. Rimmer

John Keel has written a very good mystery story called 'Operation Trojan Horse'. He has also written a first-rate UFO textbook called 'Operation Trojan Horse'. Many people will find this completely unacceptable and will criticise the writing of a textbook in the style of a mystery thriller. However in a subject so innately mysterious as ufology this is probably a valid way of writing. Many critics will probably write at great length about a number of errors of fact that appear in this book. Their criticism will be valid, and it is disappointing that these have been allowed to creep into a work of this nature. However, with the present lack of documentation in ufology cross-checking of facts and incidents is virtually impossible. These errors do not, however, invalidate the arguments of the book.

Not the least value of OTH is the many signposts it plants, pointing out avenues of further research. The highlighting of the neglected flap years of the twenties and thirties should send ufologists rushing to local newspaper archives.

It would be impossible in a short review to give an adequate outline of Keel's thesis. It would also be unethical, looking at the book as a mystery story, to give away the end. However it is not a whodunit. There is no last minute denouement in the locked drawing room when John Keel points out the guilty party. As Charles Bowen points out in his FSR review: "he cannot write his QED at the end of the exercise". It is obvious on reading the book that this is not the object. What Keel does demonstrate is something of the nature of the phenomenon. He acts in a way as the liberator of ufology, and in the process possibly destroys it as we know it. He certainly demonstrates the inadequacy of the phrase 'Unidentified Flying Objects'. He liberates ufology from twenty-five years of oppression and misunderstanding. Oppression is caused when anything is forced into an enclosure that is too small for it, whether that is a physical or a psychological enclosure. In the past ufologists have thought that they had a fairly clearly designed phenomenon to study. Even those who tended to reject the ETH have thought of ufology in the rather limiting terms of investigating reports of objects seen. Keel demonstrates the inadequacy of these terms of reference by heaping upon this basic definition an extension that is infinitely

greater than the original.

The book begins on familiar territory with the 1960 radar case, and an analysis of straightforward sighting reports. After that however each chapter adds some complexity to the basic phenomenon. By the end of the book the reader's mind is reeling from the enormity of what has been said. This is possibly one of those very rare books that alters one's way of thinking about things. It is disturbing to have one's ideas of reality assaulted so completely as Keel manages in OTH. Many people will find that their only defence against this assault is in total rejection, not only of the conclusions (which is a perfectly valid reaction), but also of the arguments. For example Keel produces evidence upon evidence that many aspects of the UFO problem are deliberate hoaxes by the forces that are the source of the phenomena. This is a conclusion that many will challenge. However, Keel develops this argument with a mass of data, with many incredible correlations, and with a sound logical argument. It is up to his critics to either show a fault in the reasoning, to challenge the evidence by double checking, or to provide an equal amount of counter-data.

An eminent British ufologist remarked that there are only four books essential reading for students of the phenomena: Charles Fort's collected works, Passport to Magonia and the two Keel books. This selection might be a little spartan but it accurately sums up the importance of John Keel's contribution to the literature.

John Keel uncovers a universe of mystery incomprehensible in its complexity. At the same time he demonstrates that this is tied up, often in a ludicrously mundane manner, with normal people. A mystery that is possibly cosmic in extent yet as much a part of human life as the telephone, Cadillac, or even, so help us, potato peelings in which it manifests itself. It would be trite to say that Keel knocks over the ETH. He challenges the framework of ufology as we know it, and poses the problem of what happens now. The evidence in the book, quite apart from the conclusions he arrives at, destroys ufology as we know it. To study the phenomenon as it is revealed in OTH and then to consider ourselves ufologists, is rather like attempting to study marine ecology and admitting we are only tadpole-hunters. John Keel has liberated ufology. Are ufologists capable of liberating themselves?

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It is something of a relief to turn from reviewing OTH to reviewing 'Strange Creatures'. This is a far more straightforward book, and somewhat slighter. It is of course an integral part of OTH, and should be read in conjunction with it.

In 'Strange Creatures' Keel takes a look at all the many weird animals and pseudo-animals that have cropped up throughout the world in various ages. He attempts to distinguish between the apparently physically real creatures that are currently unknown to conventional Western science (although does 'physically real' have any meaning after OTH?) and the imponderably wide range of manifestations that are described by that unsatisfactory word occult.

As with OTH a major part of the value of this work is in the directions it gives for new aspects of study. It is a good, scary, flesh-creeping book, to be read alone, late at night by the light of an oil lamp with the wind howling outside. It is a very good horror story. It is also an excellent and scientific catalogue of anomalous apparitions. As with OTH many people will find such a combination unacceptable. This however is how John Keel writes, it is purely a matter of literary style.

As a final point, both these books have good indexes, which enhance their value as reference tools. This is unfortunately still a great rarity in UFO literature.

Keel, John A. UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse; G.P.Putnam's Sons, New York, 320pp. \$6.95. Bibliog.

Keel, John A. Strange Creatures from Time and Space; Fawcett, Greenwich, Conn., 288pp. 75c

AN INDEX TO BRITISH UFO JOURNALS PUBLISHED SINCE JANUARY 1 1970

Compiled by John A. Rimmer

Code Letters / Name of Journal / Name and Address of Editor

- AA - Merseyside UFO Bulletin: John Hamney, 53 Woodyear Road, Bromborough, WIRRAL, Cheshire, L62 6AY
- AB - Flying Saucer Review: Charles Bowen, 21 Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, LONDON, W.C.2.
- AC - Spacelink: Miss Janet Gregory, Mill Farm, Thringstone, Coalville, Leicestershire, LE6 3UH
- AD - SWUAPIG Bulletin: * Gerald Lovell, 126 Summerhill Road, St. George, BRISTOL, BS5 8JU
- AE - BUFORA Journal: Dr J. Cleary-Baker, 3 Devenish Road, Weeko, nr Winchester, Hants.
- AF - BUFORA Research Bulletin: Stephen Smith, MA, Hill House, Melton Road, Edwalton, NOTTINGHAM, NG12 4BU
- AG - SHUFOIG Journal: Ray Holmes, 72 The Fairway, Abbots Langley, Herts, WD5 0JY
- AH - SIUFOP Newsletter: E.W. Palmer, 17 Ringwood Way, Hampton Hill, Middlesex.
- AJ - Cos-mos: Ed Blandford, 24 Linton Crescent, Hastings, Sussex.
- AK - UFO Chronicle: H.E. Hill, 26 Churchside, Vigo Village, nr Meopham, Kent.
- AL - Pegasus: Ron Toft, 14 Buckhurst Road, Frimley Green, CAMBERLEY, Surrey.
- AM - Awareness: Name of editor not given. Presumably edited by Committee of Contact (UK). Membership Secretary: Derek Mansell, 75 Norreys Road, Cumnor, Oxford, OX2 9PU

The references to periodicals are given in the following form:

Author of article; (Where no author is quoted in the journal the editor is given, unless the article is intended to be anonymous.)

Title of article; (The compiler notes that many small items are not titled. This makes adequate indexing difficult.)

Code for journal; See above.

Volume & number; (Where no volume is quoted the running number is given thus: —, 15)

Page number.

References to UFO sighting reports are not given, these being recorded in other publications, such as UFOLOG and UFO Chronicle.

* The name of SWUAPIG Bulletin has recently been changed to The Illuminer.

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- Keel, J; Mystery aeroplanes of the 1930's; AB; 16,3; 10.
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- Edwards, P M H; Speech of the aliens; AB; 16,1; 11. AB; 16,2; 23.

ALTERNATE REALITIES

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ON MANY THINGS

by Paul Hopkins

It is now almost six years since the "Thing" came to Warminster. Not forgetting that, as the Daily Mirror once put it, 'It Started on Xmas Morning', papers in general had a field day and were for a while seemingly full of such gems as - 'It's the "Thing" from Space', 'The Thing Probe' and 'What shall we do about the Thing?' Then alas, 'That THING appears again', (Daily Mirror, 11/9/65) or as the Express said, 'The Thing pops back again'. Mind you, a little over a month previously the Daily Mirror had reported that the 'Thing' had returned to a town of fear, and with the recent report in the FSR (Vol.16, No .4, pp4-7) it seems that the 'Thing' really never left.

With the colossal amount of both sense and rubbish printed in papers and UFO magazines on the subject of Warminster, it is almost needless to say that the area has become almost a shrine to the hardened believer of the space brother cult; to the sceptic an area of interest, and to the scientifically minded researcher an area in which there are still a great many questions unanswered and consequently a lot of scope for experiment and level headed observation.

It is I believe pertinent that in spite of almost six years of alleged activity in the area, the serious UFO investigator is seemingly no nearer the truth as to the exact nature of the manifestations in the skies above Warminster, despite its persistent nature. But then, is this not a characteristic of UFO research ever since the UFO aroused keen interest in post war years?

Considering the brain power involved in attempting to solve the UFO mystery over a good twenty-five years we are still very much at the starting post. Perhaps the reason why many UFO groups fold up, is that once the novelty has worn off and the frustration of inactivity sets in, the social activities of the group are too weak to hold the group together for any appreciable time or purpose. Surely this process of group fragmentation could be avoided if groups would only take on a subsidiary interest. A project of some nature to keep the group the tight knit, hard working community it ought to be. Consider the variety of talents and skills to be found in many groups where the members are drawn from all walks of life. There is I believe through this fact, a great potential for inventiveness that could be harnessed not only for the paper work, but also for the construction of scientific equipment of an analytical nature.

It is, I believe, futile to attempt the investigation of phenomena as complex as that occurring at Warminster armed only with a note pad, a pair of low power and often cheap binoculars and perhaps a camera. About all such equipment is liable to achieve is a riotous evening as the antics of the local cretins are related in some smoke-filled bar, or meeting hall.

The aim of all good UFO researchers should be good and sound scientific methods by which they should strive to add to the advancement of science, rather than to attempt to knock orthodoxy for six, as so often happens with disastrous results and subsequent ridicule by great minds who have based their knowledge on the foundations of past scientific experience.

The derivation of scientific knowledge evolves from old facts and fallacies, experimentation, observation and consistent results and the subsequent remodelling of existing ideas. Of course genius, flashes of insight and chance play their role, but there is no short cut to any scientific knowledge or achievement to be found by disregarding present day science as a load of bumbledom to be replaced by some new science, as some of the 'space brother' pundits would have us believe.

Luckily, the enlightened investigator no longer sees every mysterious crater as being derived through the effects of some equally mysterious alien space creature landing on our planet, but realises that there are other possible natural and artificial causes to be investigated before jumping on the bandwagon of sensationalism. Alan Sharp has shown in previous writings how such

craters can be formed through a variety of agencies, lightning, water, meteorites, or even fencing posts.

Perhaps one of the most recent fields of investigation regarding UFO explanations is that of ionisation which may, it is now realised, manifest itself in a variety of forms, and with a variety of effects. The type of ionised air that the UFO investigator should be most concerned with is highly ionised, that is, the electrons surrounding the atoms of the gas in question are stripped off, the gas becomes neutrally charged and, as far as conduction is concerned, the gas which under normal circumstances is insulating acts rather like a metal being able to pass a high current. When the charges (positive ions and negative electrons) within the gas are in equilibrium, then the plasma, as it is called, becomes relatively stable, and thus may persist for some time. Such plasmas may be produced artificially--accidentally, as in the case of overrated high tension power lines--and also by natural agencies.

According to our present day knowledge, the most common occurrence of this phenomenon is through the action of lightning. Considering that a typical lightning discharge from a cumulonimbus cell releases nearly 100 million volts over a path of around two miles long, and passes a current of 250,000 amps, the temperature along the path of the discharge may reach a peak of 30,000°C, roughly five times the temperature of the surface of the sun. Under such conditions it is hardly surprising that a plasma may form. Luckily the conditions for stable plasmas to form are very stringent since the strike must ionise a packet of air differing slightly from the surrounding air by virtue of some degree of contamination, as well as other parameters such as local magnetic and electric field strengths. The degree of contamination can be satisfied by a number of agencies such as methane, ammonia, or even fine dust particles, thus very few lightning discharges result in plasma formation, otherwise each thunderstorm would really be like an aerial bombardment with fiery balls exploding left, right and centre.

A plasma once formed becomes subject to the changing magnetic and electric fields around itself and will thus move accordingly. Donald J. Ritchie, who has made an extensive study of ball lightning (plasma formed through the agency of lightning) observations, concludes that there are probably two main types. The first is a diffuse red ball that fades slowly without doing any apparent harm, and the second is a bright, bluish-white ball that decays rapidly with a loud report, often causing severe damage to surrounding objects through burning and blasting. The average size for such lightning balls is one foot in diameter, though they may range from one inch to as large as 40 feet. Their form is indeed by no means confined to spheres, but may take on a variety of curved forms amongst which are saucer, dumbbell and cigar-shaped bodies. The duration of such lightning balls is between a few seconds to three minutes on average, though life spans far in excess of these figures have been observed.

Work also done on the subject of plasmas by Drs M.A. Uman and C.W. Helstrom, who aided by a computer constructed a mathematical model that could predict the properties of ball lightning, showed that the temperatures within a ball are of the order of 60-100% of that of the sun's surface. It is not surprising, therefore, that an eight inch diameter ball with a 5,000° C centre would glow as bright as a one kilowatt bulb, and would indeed be a veritable headlamp in the sky at night.

Thus the theoretical latent energy of a plasma ball is quite high, and in practice this certainly seems to be the case from numerous observations of the phenomenon as well as the odd, unfortunate human contact. The movement of such balls often leads the casual observer to assume that they are under some form of remote control: remember reports of the form and antics of the foo-fighters of the last war. Plasma balls have been observed rolling down roofs, along gutters, rising over hedges, passing through houses and even entering moving aircraft.

Another peculiarity of some plasmas is the ability to generate noise. Witnesses may describe it as a buzzing, whirring,

hissing, or even humming, though the exact mechanism for such noise production is not yet clear. It is also interesting to note that some fireballs (meteors) make similar noises. Such noises are also attributed to flying saucers.

There is some evidence that plasma balls may be capable of travelling some considerable distance away from the vicinity of the storm, and as far as natural production of these events is concerned, a thunderstorm is possibly not the only agency that can produce them. Some plasmas may be formed at extreme heights in the atmosphere and further research is required into their production before all natural mechanisms are accounted for. What is known for sure is that plasma balls do periodically turn up in strange places without an apparent cause. So don't get too near that landed flying saucer--- it may well fry you in your own fat.

To me it is little surprising that strange objects should be persistently sighted over Warminster considering the number of skywatchers and nuts concentrated into such a small area by virtue of the tradition of the place which, you may well remember, 'started one Xmas morning'. For I have one simple recipe for anyone wishing to see some strange aerial phenomena, that is, to sleep during the day and watch by night. If by the end of the first week you see nothing, try again the next week, and again and again. This method works for me and I have seen numerous satellites, even more meteors, a few plasma balls pretending to be flying saucers, and some objects that remain unidentified by all known artificial and natural processes.

I will admit to the strong possibility of alien intelligences observing us by some unknown process of their super advanced science, but I must object strongly when one reads as I did recently such fuss over a small light moving in the sky, and photographs of the offending luminescence taken under atrocious conditions. So next time you encounter a strange light buzzing your car, or zig-zagging across the sky, is it not better to say---it isn't a planet, star, or plasma, etc., therefore it is unidentified, rather than it is a UFO because it isn't lightning, will o' the wisp, etc. After all, are there not more 'Things' in heaven and earth than are dreamt in your philosophy of flying saucers, o space brothers?

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LOCAL UFO REPORT

Warrington, Lancashire

August 14, 1970

late evening

The following report appeared in the Liverpool Echo on August 15:

An investigation is likely by the Mersey and Weaver River Authority at Warrington, following reports late last night that a mysterious object had plunged out of the sky into the Mersey, near the works of Joseph Crosfield and Sons Limited. Several people telephoned Warrington police station to say they had seen a cylindrical object measuring about three feet, bright red in colour, and with a flashing light. It had simply "come out of the sky" and disappeared into the Mersey. A police spokesman said the object was seen by quite a lot of people. There was a possibility that the object could have been a meteorological survey instrument, but more inquiries were to be made, and all information passed on to the Mersey & Weaver River Authority.

NOTES QUOTES & QUERIESThe Phantom Nun of Poulton Hall

There are a number of ghostly legends connected with Poulton Hall, Bebington, the home of a well-known local family, the Lancelyn Greens. Perhaps the best-known of these legends concerns the story of a nun who died at the Hall while on her way to a local priory. Her ghost is said to haunt the vicinity of the Hall.

Late in the evening of Sunday, August 2, Mr James Crossland, of Bromborough, was driving along Poulton Road, which passes by Poulton Hall, when the figure of a girl appeared in his headlights. She seemed to be dressed in a nazi coat. He sounded his horn, but she did not move and he was forced to stop. She slowly turned to face him and began to approach. As he got out of his car the girl faded and disappeared.

After this story had appeared in the Bebington News another motorist contacted the paper to report that he had also seen the apparition. He wrote:

"I was returning, quite late, from a friend's in Higher Bebington along Poulton Road when it occurred. I had just entered the darkness of the country when I saw a figure ahead at the side of the road. I slowed down, naturally, and saw a girl with long hair and a long dark coat apparently standing there alone. I thought this unusual at that time of night, so I stopped to see if I could be of assistance - or give her a lift. I leaned over to the passenger door, but as I opened it the girl slowly vanished into thin air. I was quite shaken by the incident.

"On reflection, I cannot recall having seen the girl's face, but instinctively feel she was female. I can offer no explanation for the apparition." (Reference: Bebington News, 7/8/70 and 21/8/70.)

What is reality?

"She said faintly 'Are you...real?'

"Amusement showed in his face. 'Real?' he said. 'Define reality and I can answer you.' He waved a hand. 'Look into solid earth, into rock, and see the galaxies of all Creation. What you call reality melts; there is a whirling, a spinning of forces, a dance of motes and atoms. Some of them we call planets, one of them is Earth. Nothingness within nothingness enclosing nothing, that is reality...'"

from Pavane, by Keith Roberts (Panther Books).

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